



The “Accidental” Fiscal Representative Have you volunteered as “Fiscal Representative”?

Do you sometimes get Fiscal Numbers for others? Forwarding Property Rates Bills to help out a neighbour? If the answer is “Yes” to any of these questions, you should know these important facts:

- According to Portuguese law, a Fiscal Representative can be held responsible for unpaid taxes of the Representee;
- *Finanças* has actioned hundreds of thousands of “*penhoras*” (writs of attachment, allowing *Finanças* to seize assets of delinquent taxpayers). In other words, the Portuguese Revenue has become very serious about collecting tax, whatever the source;
- Until recently, it was impossible to renounce Fiscal Representation. Even today, the procedure is cumbersome, difficult and costly.

Digging yourself into a hole . . .

Doing something for nothing can often be perceived as a favour. However, this may not always be the case. As the “volunteer”, you may be unwittingly placing yourself in jeopardy. At the same time, you may be unintentionally hindering access to invaluable expertise by replacing a qualified professional who might be able to facilitate thousands in savings.

Non-Residents often require the skilled assistance and guidance that a well meaning “volunteer” is rarely able to give. In the event of a tax audit, are you prepared to provide a viable defence? When a property is going to be sold, will you know how to mitigate Capital Gains Tax liabilities? If *non-residents* need to change their status, are you prepared to guide them through the process?



Getting it Right

Rather than waiting for your good intentions to pave a path to problems both for you and your representees, we strongly recommend that you turn over the responsibilities of Fiscal Representation to professionals such as **euroFINESCO**. While no longer free, our charges are surprisingly modest and, even more importantly, represent excellent value.

SPECIALISED FISCAL REPRESENTATION

With **euroFINESCO**, *non-residents* can count on the following quality services:

- **Asset Protection**

Purchasing property is a major investment. If basic requirements go unmet or are not completed correctly, the asset could be at serious risk. Having a qualified professional *Fiscal Representative* should be considered a prerequisite, not an add-on.

- **Statutory Requirements for Property Owners**

Meeting tax obligations is a matter of Law. At **euroFINESCO**, we will make sure that our clients are fully compliant while helping them to pay the *legal minimum*. We stand behind our work and normally defend our clients at no extra cost in case of a tax audit.

- **Resourcing Information to Owners**

Portugal is often a difficult country for obtaining accurate, reliable information. At **euroFINESCO**, we “*wrote the book*”. We have publications on a host of different topics relating to Portuguese Taxation on Property: as Buyer, as Owner, as Seller. We can accurate, up-to-date answers to questions that arise. When changes occur in legislation, we keep our clients abreast of current requirements and the steps needed to stay compliant.



- **Liaison between *Finanças* & Property Owners**

We will represent non-residents and defend their interests as we have for others in Portugal since 1991. We have broad experience as well as an excellent rapport with local, regional and national *Finanças* offices to help sort out any problems that may arise.

- **Personalised Service**

As diversified service company, we have a dedicated Fiscal Representation Department, staffed by capable, knowledgeable professionals who are specialised in meeting your representation needs. Personalised service is one of our principal goals.

- **Plain English**

As you have probably already learned by now, Portugal has complex bureaucracy. All the forms and web pages are only available in Portuguese and instructions are often in a jargon that even native Portuguese sometimes have trouble understanding. We put the full process to you in *Plain English*. With proper guidance, even those who speak English as a Second Language should have little trouble in getting it right.

With a specialised Fiscal Representative, *non-residents* should be off to a good start and be able to make the most of their new life in Portugal.